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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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June 30, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Prominent Argentine Senator Writes to the President

Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen has written to the President thanking him for the United States efforts to secure his release from prison. Solari Yrigoyen writes that he was held for nine months without charges, tortured, and finally expelled to Venezuela. A suggested reply for signature by a member of the White House staff is attached.

Solari Yrigoyen is in his early forties and has dedicated much of his life to democratic and humanitarian ideals. He was a member of the Argentine Senate from 1973 until 1976, when the military assumed power. He had already been the victim of two attempts on his life before the 1976 coup. It appears that the Senator's criticism of government counterterrorism led rightists under the Peronistas to attack him twice and was the principal reason for his abduction by the Argentine security forces in August 1976. He was expelled in May 1977.

During his week-long stay in Washington, he has met with the Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary Todman, Human Rights Coordinator Derian - to whom he delivered his letter to the President - and with Senators Kennedy and Church. He has expressed very strong support for the Administration's policy, noting the people of Latin America now feel that the United States is on the side of democracy rather than military dictatorships.

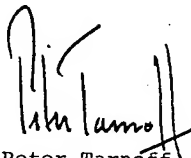
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He is refraining from public commentary because his children are still in Argentina. He hopes they will be able to leave untroubled. If not, we will try to do what we can to persuade the Argentine government on humanitarian grounds that the Solari Yrigoyen family should be reunited.



Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Suggested Reply.

HR
Drafted: ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
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Clearances: ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann (draft) *HR*
ARA:FDevine *J.S.*
D/HA:MSchneider (draft) *HR*

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SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Senator Solari Yrigoyen:

The President has asked me to acknowledge your kind letter of June 21. While we regret your exile from Argentina, it is a great relief for us to know you are now free. We very much hope that the rest of your family will soon be reunited with you, and that you will be able to continue your courageous efforts on behalf of human dignity and democracy.

As I am sure you learned during your visit to Washington, we too are determined to work unstintingly on behalf of the cause of human rights everywhere. Your words of encouragement have heartened us.

With my best wishes,

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Caracas, Venezuela, 21 de junio de 1977

Excelentísimo Señor Presidente
de Estados Unidos de América
D. James Carter
Washington

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Excelencia:

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a V.E. para expresarle mi reconocimiento por las gestiones que ha efectuado su gobierno ante las autoridades de la República Argentina en resguardo de mi vida e integridad física y en favor de mi libertad.

Tras permanecer nueve meses prisionero en la cárcel de Rawson, un verdadero campo de concentración por el trato inhumano que reciben los presos políticos, y sufrir torturas y crueles castigos, se me permitió salir de la Argentina con la prohibición de regresar. Nunca fui acusado de nada, ni procesado, ni sometido siquiera con algún pretexto a la Justicia, pero es evidente que mi encarcelamiento obedeció a la permanente lucha que he desarrollado como hombre público y Senador de la Nación en favor de los derechos humanos en mi país y en los países vecinos, especialmente Chile.

La fraterna preocupación de V.E., al igual que la similar del H. Congreso, ha sido un factor fundamental y decisivo para que la Junta Militar de mi país resolviera concluir con la injusta y vejatoria cárcel que padecía.

Deseo también transmitir a V.E. el beneplácito que ha causado en el pueblo argentino su firme actitud en defensa de los derechos humanos, uno mi apoyo al de todos los demócratas de América Latina, para que tan elevada política por V.E. inspirada pueda triunfar en el continente, venciendo todos los obstáculos que se le oponen.

Me es grato reiterar a V.E. el testimonio de mi respeto, consideración y estima.

Hipólito SOLARI YRIGOYEN
Senador de la Nación Argentina
Miembro del Comité Nacional de la Unión Cívica Radical

Apartado 68918. Altamira. Caracas 106. Venezuela
Teléfono: 284-11-25

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